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GEOPHYSICAL VARIABLES AND BEHAVIOR: XLIII. NEGATIVE CORRELATION BETWEEN ACCURACY OF CARD-GUESSING AND GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY: A CASE STUDY

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Summary.—A single subject who had a history of multiple PSI experiences was given 23 sessions of 40 symbol-guessing trials per session over a 4-mo. period. Accuracy scores were correlated with the geomagnetic activity (Ap) on the days of the testing. A moderately strong negative correlation was found between the scores and the geomagnetic activity. These results are compatible with those reported for subjective psi experiences.

Subjective (spontaneous) telepathic-clairvoyant cases concerning death and crises to significant others occur more frequently on days when the geomagnetic activity is quieter than the days before or afterwards (2, 3). Experimental cases of dream telepathy show a similar pattern (1). D. Scott Rogo (personal communication, 1986) suggested analyzing the psi behavior of a single "gifted" subject for a protracted period. If the previous results are generalizable, then there should be a negative correlation between the number of correct psi guesses and concurrent geomagnetic activity.

To test this, a 20-yr.-old female (BM) university student (not familiar with the hypothesis) with a long reported history of spontaneous psi experiences was tested once or twice a week for a total of 23 sessions between January and May, 1986 (termination of the semester). Each session consisted of 40 30-sec. trials. During the first 15 sec. of each trial, the subject was allowed to guess (by pressing a button) which of five Zener card-symbols would be presented next. The symbol was then presented on a screen for 15 sec. The sequence of the symbols was random (blind insertion into the tray by a second experimenter), and they were presented by a computer-controlled slide projector. Because the subject showed a propensity to guess correctly the symbol of the next trial (+1 displacement) as well as the contemporary trial in a series (before this study began), we decided that her psi score would be the sum of the two scores. In addition, her subjective psi experiences often involved events that occurred 10 to 30 sec. later.

The data were not analyzed until the completion of the experiment. At that time, the Ap values for the days of the testing were determined from monthly geomagnetic summaries. The mean and standard deviation for the

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numbers of correct responses per session were 19.4 ± 3.4. Statistically significant ($p < .01$) negative correlations ($rho = -0.46$, Pearson $r = -0.67$) were obtained between the number of correct guesses and the geomagnetic activity on the day of the experiment. Both correlation coefficients were calculated to reduce the dominating effects of outliers in the parametric analysis. These results are similar to those found in other studies and indicate that psi experiences are more likely (or psi responses are increased in strength) during periods of quieter geomagnetic activity. The mechanism of this association is not clear.

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